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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ESAB AB

Serial Number: 09/402185

Filed: 9/28/99

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING

Attorney Docket Number: 5746

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Alexandria, VA 22313

September 28, 2004

Sir:

Applicant hereby requests a Continued Examination of the above application. In support of this Request for Continued Exam, applicant hereby submits the following Amendment and Response and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3-21 and 14-21 and add new claims 22-37 as shown in the section entitled Claim Amendments.